

UNMARKED ROUTES

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VIDEO LINKS

Transformic	(solo piano and electronics)
If We: Children	(solo piano)
Mbira Bēra	(screen art video)
Sine Sign password: Sine	(live with string quartet and woodwinds)

ONE LINE – DESCRIPTION 1

Unmarked Routes through sonic hypnagogy.

ONE LINE - DESCRIPTION 2

Ambient neo classical dub piano and electronics.

DESCRIPTION 1 (STANDARD VERSION)

The new musical endeavor of Unmarked Routes that merges his long background with Jazz, Blues, Afro-Cuban and Jamaican musical styles with an expansive neoclassical ambient new sound that incorporates the use of modern electronics with acoustic instruments. The music is at once subtle and contemplative yet expansive, rhythmic and hypnotic with a stunning level of personality and emotion.

DESCRIPTION 2 (HYPNAGOGIC VERSION)

Unmarked Routes; A dematerialized sonic hypnagogic experience, luxuriating in atmospheres and drone-tones of awe and fascination, where thoughts and feelings of division have no safe harbor. A low-lit bath of sound, where iridescent, gauzy melodies collide in slow motion with decolonized electronic soundscapes, a piano, hushed voices and maybe a string quartet and kaleidoscopic dancers. Where lo-fi, dubbed-out, faded trance rhythms superimposition themselves in your being with the lucid assurance that a beautiful outcome will bloom if together we direct our attention to it.

UNMARKED ROUTES BIOGRAPHY

Unmarked Routes remembers walking around on late nights during the Summer, sauntering through the New Hampshire (USA) country side, under a moon-lit sky with the smell of pine trees, cut grass, the sound of a gently babbling brook showing up along his path. Occasionally, after returning from what we now call a nature bath, he would come upon a 1am radio show on National Public Radio called, "Music from the Hearts of Space" and become completely transfixed by the wild spaciousness delivered on the sonic vibrations of massive synth pads, beautiful merged string lines, subtle hand-percussion rhythms, perhaps a few spoken word snippets shining through a din of cavernous reverb. The tracks floating out of the radio that had a level of compositional adventure ignited a fire that would later propel Matt into exploring avant-garde classical composers such as Arnold Schoenberg, Igor Stravinsky and Bela Bartok.

Off-stage, Unmarked Routes is composer, pianist, and Berklee College of Music professor Matt Jenson. His musical trajectory has been long and varied: earning a master's degree in jazz piano, playing deep roots blues, southern rock, and funk, immersing himself in Afro-Cuban traditions, and diving deep into the reggae idiom through the creation of his "Music and Life of Bob Marley" class/ensemble, touring and recording with jazz-fusion reggae outfit Groundation and leading his own Latin and reggae ensembles.

This current project marks a radical departure from the middle chapter of his career, or perhaps it's more like a returning to that simple and organic experience of beauty and the sense of being touched by something deeply universal while wandering through the moon-lit forests and meadows of his childhood.

Most assuredly, a successful path through the human and planetary transition taking place will not come from division. Unmarked Routes invites you into a hypnagogic state, the fertile space between wakefulness and sleep, where immense feelings of awe and gratitude delivered on a sonic bed of beauty will remind you that in fact, we are not divided.

MATT JENSON BIOGRAPHY

Growing up in rural New Hampshire injected Matt with a deep spiritual connection to the simplicity and truth of the natural world. Frequent childhood trips to Boston expanded his cultural horizons, sparking a profound affinity for the music of the African diaspora: Jazz, Blues, Reggae, and Afro-Latin rhythms. Driven by an intense creative pulse and a desire to understand the socio-political and psychological currents of humanity, Matt built a multifaceted career as a keyboardist, singer, composer, arranger, and educator.

Just before the turn of the century, Matt earned his Master's degree in Jazz Studies at the New England Conservatory of Music, studying alongside legends Geri Allen, Dave Holland, and Ran Blake. He launched his professional career on the bandstands of Boston, quickly turning heads with his deep groove and formidable arranging chops. Soon, he was playing sold-out houses across the US and Europe with blues giant Ronnie Earl and the maestro of New Orleans soul, Johnny Adams.

This street-level masterclass in soul and blues allowed Matt to return to Boston and distill his passion for Caribbean rhythms. The universe answered his musical seeking almost simultaneously: he secured private study with his idol, the iconic Latin pianist Eddie Palmieri, while launching a parallel, deep-dive exploration into the legacy of Bob Marley.

In 2001, Matt joined the piano faculty at Berklee College of Music, teaching studio piano, Hammond organ, and Afro-Cuban styles. There, he created the smash-hit performance class, "The Music and Life of Bob Marley," taking ensembles of talented young musicians from across the globe on a radical immersion into roots reggae. His work has taken him on many cultural/musical immersion trips to Jamaica which led to musical experiences with many in Marley's inner circle, including Rita Marley, Judy Mowatt and Earl 'Chinna' Smith, and other musicians who developed reggae music including Sly Dunbar, Robbie Shakespeare. He has written nearly 40 full-scale arrangements of Marley's music and taught the class outside of Berklee, most notably at the ecstatic northern California summer immersion camp, Jazz Camp

West. In 2020, he launched Art of Reggae (www.artofreggae.com), a popular online platform preserving and teaching Afro-Jamaican keyboard and guitar traditions.

Matt's artistic output spans over three decades of celebrated projects. He leads the long-running Latin and Reggae dance band ¡Combo Sabroso!, co-created the Afro-Cuban/reggae fusion band Rebel Tumbao, and delivered sharp political satire with his band Liquid Revolution on their album *Dragonfly Taxi*. In 2018, he joined the internationally renowned jazz-fusion reggae powerhouse Groundation, touring Europe, Brazil, and Hawaii, while serving as a primary keyboardist and arranger on their benchmark album *One Rock* and its companion album *Dub Rock*. His deep jazz-reggae sensibilities also find a home in Mix Up Mix Up, a project heavily influenced by Ernest Ranglin and Monty Alexander.

In 2024, Matt turned his focus to the expansive world of ambient electronic music. Merging the organic warmth of the piano and other acoustic instruments with intricate electronic sound design, he shapes a sea of knobs, blinking lights, and laptop interfaces into a unified sonic tapestry. Carrying the imprints of all his past musical worlds, this new project is designed to deliver awe-inspiring beauty in a time of human and planetary transition. For this latest evolutionary chapter, he records and performs under the moniker UNMARKED ROUTES.